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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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PATENT
Customer ID No. 33649

REMARKS

In an office action mailed July 20, 2004 (paper no. 10), Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raleigh et al., U.S. Patent 5,809,422, in view of Werling. The Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 39-44 are allowed, and that claims 25-27, 29, and 30 would be allowable if amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 23 and 24, but these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite prosecution. Likewise, Applicants believe that all dependent claims that were indicated to be allowable are allowable at least for the reasons that they depend from an allowable base claim and add additional novel features not present in the prior art.

The Applicants have amended dependent claims 27 and 41-44 to conform them to the wording of independent claims 25 and 39, respectively. New claims 45 through 50 are presented herewith for examination, and are believed to be allowable based upon the indication of allowability of claims 25 through 27, 29, 30 and 39 through 44. All pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

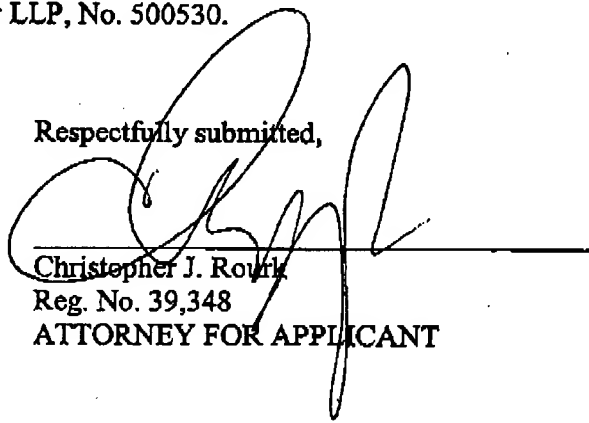
In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicant submits that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, a telephone interview with the Examiner is hereby requested by the undersigned at (214) 939-8657 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

No additional fee is believed to be due. If any applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Godwin Gruber LLP, No. 500530.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 20, 2004



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